



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,738	03/03/2004	Somei Kawasaki	03500.017938	2877
5514 7590 02/21/2008 FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			EXAMINER FATAHI YAR, MAHMOUD	
			ART UNIT 2629	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 02/21/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,738

Applicant(s)

KAWASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Fatahiyar

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-12 and 17-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 13-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/09/04, 12/02/05 and 4/23/07.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings are objected to because in figures 2, 13 and 14, the non-standard electronic elements 4-9, 13, 19, 23, 29, 104-107, 109-111 and 200 should all have a descriptive labels. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
2. Claims 1-19 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 12, the recitation "a plurality of output units" is vague and indefinite because it is not clear to what it refers;

At lines 8 and 11, the recitation "one or more specific circuits" is vague and indefinite because it is not clear to what it refers. In other words, what constitutes the specific circuits is unclear;

At lines 6-8 and 10-11, the recitations "control circuit" and "a correction value output circuit" both perform the same function, that is, **evaluating the output of one or more specific circuits**. Thus, the noted recitations are vague and indefinite because it is not clear how they distinguish from each other.

In claim 4, line 3, the recitation "a plurality of output units" is vague and indefinite because it is not clear to what it refers;

At line 7, the recitation "one or more specific circuits" is vague and indefinite because it is not clear to what it refers. In other words, what constitutes the specific circuits is unclear.

In claim 19, line 3, the recitation "a plurality of output units" is vague and indefinite because it is not clear to what it refers;

At lines 7 and 10, the recitation "one or more specific circuits" is vague and indefinite because it is not clear to what it refers. In other words, what constitutes the specific circuits is unclear;

At line 9, there is no clear antecedent basis for "the current single output line";

At lines 6-8 and 10-11, the recitations "controlling" and "evaluating" both perform the same function, that is, **evaluating the output of one or more specific circuits**. Thus, the noted recitations are vague and indefinite because it is not clear how they distinguish from each other.

In claim 26, lines 7, 9 and 10, there is no clear antecedent basis for "the image signal voltage".

In claim 27, line 7, there is no clear antecedent basis for "the current signal".

In claim 28, line 13, there is no clear antecedent basis for "the input digital image signal". Correction and/or clarification is required.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto(2006/0152453A1).

Hashimoto discloses a driver circuit for an active organic electroluminescent matrix display device comprising a plurality of current signal generation circuits(21), a plurality of output unit(i.e., data lines), a current signal output line(718), a control circuit(35, 2203), a correction value output circuits(24), a correction circuit(6, 22, 23), a switch/a plurality switches(9), a common control signal generated from element(10), a display apparatus(2201) and a correction data storage circuit(6) which all function as claimed.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto('453A1) in view of Ishizuki et al(2003/0122813A1).

Hashimoto is discussed above. Ishizuki et al is cited to show that the concept of utilizing a capacitor(13) at a gate of a driver transistor of a pixel circuit for driving an EL display element and using a DAC(37) provided in an external control circuit for driving current signal generation circuits in an active matrix EL display device is old. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Hashimoto with the above noted teachings of Ishizuki et al such that to utilize a capacitor at gate of a driver transistor for an EL element and also to use a DAC converter in an external control circuit for conversion of analog video signal because both references are related to use of a current correction circuit in an active matrix electroluminescent display device.

7. Claims 3 and 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hashimoto('156B2), Tagawa et al, Oomura and Ishizuka are made of record to show various types of a driver circuit utilizing a current correction circuit for driving an active matrix electroluminescent display device.

Application/Control Number:
10/790,738
Art Unit: 2629

Page 6


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Fatahiyar whose telephone number is (571)272-7688. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Fatahiyar *MF*

February 18, 2008


RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 2600